

Letter from Frederick W. Baldwin to Alexander Graham Bell, January 29, 1917

Beinn Bhreagh, File near Baddeck, Nova Scotia. 1917 January 29 Dr Alexander Graham Bell 1331 Connecticut Avenue Washington D C Dear Mr Bell:—

Thank you for copies of letters dealing with the A.E.A. patents. If anything should require my assent, please act for me in the matter; as mail is very uncertain, and it might easily take two weeks for you to get an answer to anything you send on to me from Washington. Anything you think is fair, is entirely agreeable to me, as my chief interest is that you and Mrs Bell get back, at least, what you put into the A.E.A.

If the Curtiss stock is not worth its face value to day, it is not because they haven't gouged high enough prices out of the British Government; but must be due to stock juggling of some sort.

I have forgotten what the A.E.A. agreement is; but if any of the stock should be coming to me, I would feel in a very awkward position, as I could not accept money made out of Great Britain or any of the Allies; any more than I could imagine myself now, going into the War profiteering business.

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We are getting on nicely with the "Elsie" now, and have started assembling main Keel; after and forward over-hang timbers; and principal skeleton work of the boat. We are not going to pour the lead Keel, until later, as we have been held up on melting Cauldrons, and the weather at present is very unsuitable for the work.

The ice has just made across the Bay; but mails are coming by Whycocomagh.

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Rose was here a little while ago and he's gone back to Maitland. He will be here in lots of time to make sure of no slip up with early lambs.

By the way, you may have to give me back — at least — a pipeful of that tobacco which changed hands on the Customs rebate bet. It is not settled yet; but it looks as though we may get back enough to warrant my having, at least, one smoke at your expense.

I suppose you and Mrs Bell will soon be starting for Florida; which looks like a reasonable move from here, as we have been having it stormy and down to eleven below zero.

Yours sincerely, Casey